



Infiltration Trenches

What is an infiltration trench?

An infiltration trench is designed to filter stormwater. It is an excavated channel filled with gravel that helps to manage polluted or excess stormwater on your property. Infiltration trenches can be located on the surface or buried underground.

How does it work?

An infiltration trench captures stormwater and directs it through layers of gravel, sand, and underlying soil, which allows the water to infiltrate into the surrounding soil and prevents flooding.

An underdrain pipe may be installed in the gravel bed to collect and remove excess stormwater.

Flow splitters are often used to send a certain quantity of untreated water, known as the "first flush," to an infiltration trench.

Why is an infiltration trench important?

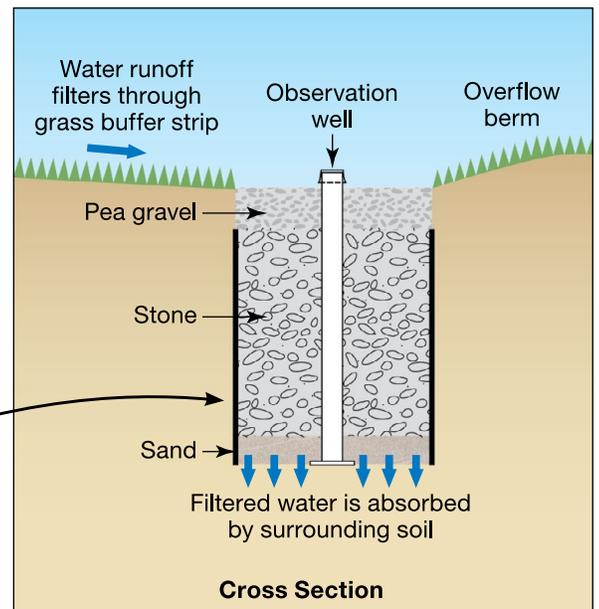
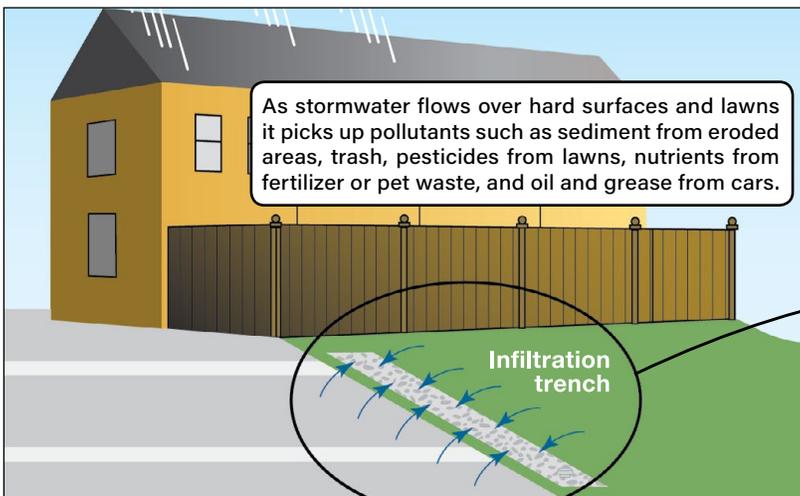
- Removes pollutants
- Improves health of streams and rivers
- Helps to make our waters fishable and swimmable
- Improves the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay



Why is it important to keep your infiltration trench maintained?

An unmaintained infiltration trench may:

- Over time, allow unwanted algae and vegetation to grow over it, reducing its function and appearance
- Cause stormwater to pool on the surface long enough to become a breeding place for insects (more than 3 days)
- Cost more money to fix problems if left unchecked
- Not remove pollutants as intended, sending polluted water to streams and rivers



Maintenance 101

PREVENTIVE (non-structural) MAINTENANCE

Regular preventative maintenance helps avoid long-term damage and potential violations. These basic actions will keep your facility looking good and working correctly, which saves you money in the long run.

Grass Cutting (At least twice a year)

- Mow grass around perimeter of Infiltration Trench. *(Be careful— keep grass clippings out of the infiltration trench!)*

Vegetation Management (Annually)

- Remove all trees and woody vegetation from the trench.
- Remove all grass and weeds growing in the trench.
- Re-seed and cover adjacent areas of bare soil to prevent erosion

Trash Removal (Monthly)

- Remove trash and debris from all areas in and around trench.

Other Preventive Maintenance

- Try to reduce or eliminate trash and other pollutants on your property.
- Prevent people from playing in the infiltration trench.
- Inform work crews on your property of the infiltration trench's location so they don't accidentally damage it or deposit snow in it.
- Inspect the infiltration trench after every major storm, and contact DEP if you are concerned.

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE

Structural maintenance must be done if the infiltration trench is not filtering and draining properly. Watch for the structural maintenance problems listed below.

A DEP-approved contractor must perform structural maintenance. Please visit montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater for a list of approved contractors.

Problem:	Possible Fix:
Water standing on the surface for more than 3 days	Filter media and other components may need to be replaced
Erosion along flow paths or dead vegetation	Erosion should be corrected, vegetation may need to be replanted on adjacent areas, and flow paths may need to be re-graded
Damage to structural components (i.e., filter materials, pipes, overflow structures, observation wells)	Specific maintenance for these components to be determined by DEP
Animal burrows	Fill in burrows

Who is responsible for the maintenance?

Per Montgomery County regulations, the property owner is responsible for all maintenance unless your infiltration trench has been transferred to the DEP Stormwater Maintenance Program.

If you would like more information about transferring your infiltration trench into this program, please visit montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater.

(PLEASE NOTE: Only infiltration trenches located in common areas of residential properties are eligible for the transfer program.)

How will I know what maintenance is required?

DEP performs inspections every 3 years. If maintenance problems are detected during an inspection, DEP will e-mail you a notice of violation with a work order that shows a list of items that need to be performed to restore your facility to proper working condition. If you notice any of the issues or failures listed above, please contact DEP for guidance.

Before Structural Repairs



After Structural Repairs



NEED HELP OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

DEP can answer your questions and provide additional guidance about maintaining your infiltration trench.

Email us at AskDEP@montgomerycountymd.gov, call the Montgomery County Customer Service Center at **3-1-1**, or visit our website: montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater.